AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first device, comprising:

digital content storage that stores digital content files; and

a monitoring system that monitors, at the first device, consumption of digital content of a file selected from the digital content storage, and generates usage data based on one or more usage events and indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed;

a usage data storage system that collects the usage data; and

a usage metrics system at a second device remote from the first device that receives the stored usage data and processes the usage data to provide inference results,

wherein said usage events include a play event type describing how the digital content is consumed, the play event type includes ~~three or more~~ each of begin, resume, complete, pause, error and cancel indicators, and a timestamp indicating when [[the]] each play event type occurs.

2.   (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the usage metrics system organizes the usage data into at least one of a plurality of categories comprising a genre type of digital content, time based consumption of the digital content and date based consumption of the digital content.

3.   (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first device obtains the digital content from a content provider.

4.   (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a recommendation system that generates digital content recommendations based on the processed usage data, the recommendation system providing the digital content recommendations to a content provider.

5.   (Original) The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the content provider selects additional digital content to send to the first device based on the digital content recommendations.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the usage metrics system provides the processed usage data to at least one organization system comprising at least one of a content publisher, content developer, advertisement company, music chart company, music marketing company, marketing company and consulting firm.

7.   (Original) The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the digital content comprises at least one of digital music, digital documents, digital movies, and software.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
       storing at least one digital content file in memory of a first device;
       monitoring, by the first device, consumption of digital content of the stored digital content files, which are selected from the digital content storage for consumption;
       at the first device, generating usage data based on one or more usage events and indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed;
       collecting and storing the usage data; and
       transmitting the stored usage data to a second device remote from the first device;
       processing the usage data to provide inference results,
       wherein said usage events include a play event type describing how the digital content is consumed, the play event type includes ~~three or more~~ <u>each</u> of begin, resume, complete, pause, <u>error</u> and cancel indicators, and a timestamp indicating when [[the]] <u>each</u> play event type occurs.

9.   (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein processing the usage data further comprises organizing the usage data into at least one of a plurality of

categories comprising a genre type of digital content, time based consumption of the digital content and date based consumption of the digital content.

10. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising obtaining the digital content at the first device from a content provider.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising generating digital content recommendations based on the processed usage data.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 11 further comprising selecting additional digital content to send to the first device based on the digital content recommendations.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8 further comprising providing the processed usage data to at least one organization system comprising at least one of a content publisher, content developer, advertisement company, music chart company, music marketing company, marketing company and consulting firm.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by at least one processor, causes the at least one processor to perform:

storing at least one digital content file in memory of a first device;

monitoring, by the first device, consumption of digital content of the stored digital content files, which are selected from the digital content storage for consumption;

at the first device, generating usage data based on one or more usage events and indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed;

collecting and storing the usage data; and

transmitting the stored usage data to a second device remote from the first device;

processing the usage data to provide inference results,

wherein said usage events include a play event type describing how the digital content is consumed, the play event type includes ~~three or more~~ <u>each</u> of begin, resume, complete, pause, <u>error</u> and cancel indicators, and a timestamp indicating when [[the]] <u>each</u> play event type occurs.

15.   (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 14 wherein processing the usage data further comprises organizing the usage data into at least one of a plurality of categories comprising a genre type of digital content, time based consumption of the digital content and date based consumption of the digital content.

16.   (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 14 further comprising obtaining the digital content at the first device from a content provider.

17.   (Previously Presented) The medium as set forth in claim 14 further comprising generating digital content recommendations based on the inference results.

18.   (Original) The medium as set forth in claim 17 further comprising selecting additional digital content to send to the first device based on the digital content recommendations.

19.   (Previously Presented) The medium as set forth in claim 14 further comprising providing the processed usage data to at least one organization system comprising at least one of a content publisher, content developer, advertisement company, music chart company, music marketing company, marketing company and consulting firm.

20.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
        a first device, comprising:
        digital content storage that stores digital content files; and
        a monitoring system that monitors, at the first device, consumption of digital content comprising an audio file selected from the digital content storage, and generates usage data based on one or more usage events and indicative of the manner in which the digital content is consumed;

a usage data storage system that collects the usage data; and

a usage metrics system at a second device remote from the first device that receives the stored usage data and processes the usage data to provide inference results,

wherein said usage events include a play event type describing how the digital content is consumed, the play event type includes ~~three or more~~ each of begin, resume, complete, pause, error and cancel indicators, and a timestamp indicating when [[the]] each play event type occurs.

21.   (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the usage data storage system is located in a portable digital audio player.

22.   (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first device is a portable device and the usage storage system is located in a computer.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inference results include at least one inference of preference of a consumer of the digital content.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the inference results include at least one inference of habit of a consumer of the digital content.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the inference results include at least one inference of preference of a consumer of the digital content.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the inference results include at least one inference of habit of a consumer of the digital content.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 14, wherein the inference results include at least one inference of preference of a consumer of the digital content.

28.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 14, wherein the inference results include at least one inference of habit of a consumer of the digital content.